

HUGH S. FULLERTON COMPARES PLAYERS FOR WORLD'S SERIES

This is the second of a series of eleven preliminary articles in which the contestants in the world's series are discussed critically and impartially.

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BY HUGH S. FULLERTON.

	Speed	Hitting	Waiting	Throwing	Fielding	Average	Team Value
Doyle	.93	78	84	88	75	83 1-5	747
Collins	.84	84	82	83	78	88 2-5	763

Considering the second basemen who will meet as rivals for the key-stone honors of the world's championship, we find the men who perhaps are the class of the respective leagues. There are others who compare favorably to Doyle in many respects in the National League, but only one. Evers is his peer in all departments. There are some in the American League who compare well with Collins, but no second baseman in the country is as good as he at all departments of the game.

To compare Doyle and Collins requires the closest and the most searching analysis of the men themselves, their temperaments, and back of that, their temperaments. For, after all, the temperament of a player counts almost as much in a great series, in which the nerves are strained to the utmost, as does mechanical ability to play ball. Mechanically, Collins is the superior of Doyle in a great many respects, yet Doyle possesses qualities that make him so closely the equal that he is able to hit harder makes the Philadelphia favorite. Both are great hitters, but few men have possessed such a happy style of hitting combined with great speed as does the star of the Athletics. Doyle, in assurance, even this up by slightly better balance in the batting line.

There is in all sports, however, athletes known as "money players." Perhaps you often have wondered why the most brilliant of the exhibition ballists do not win the bournes, why the great golfers are only runners up to less brilliant men, why some fellow who never did a hundred yards in better than 10-15 always beats out the second man when something depends upon it. The reply is that one is a "money player." The phrase is full of meaning. It means that the greater the necessity, the better the man plays. In this case, it is true of both men. They are money players, game to the core, and they offer one of those rare cases in which both the speed, the ability and the gameness are present. They are fighting, hustling, aggressive ball players, both great hitters, dangerous at any time, and most dangerous when they face some crisis, either at bat or on the bases.

Present Form Not Good.

You will see that I am giving credit to Doyle with being that kind of player, by rating him so close up to Collins on his work of this season. He has not played as well this year as during the last two seasons, and of late his throwing has been way off color. There is all kinds of gossip assigning reasons for his failure to perform as brilliantly, but, lacking proof of them, it is better to let them go disregarded, because it is certain that no matter what trouble or conflict there may have been, Doyle will play just as great ball in the world's series as if there never had been anything. You may say Doyle did not play good ball in the series against Boston last fall, but I contend that he did.

It is true he had the misfortune to "boot" some balls, but errors are part of the game. In every case in which he failed to handle balls cleanly his recovery after the fumble was remarkably rapid, and twice in one game he staved off what threatened to be winning rallies by the Red Sox by recovering that retired the lethargic runners from the Hub. To me that really is greater baseball than to field a ball cleanly. Doyle was fighting all the time, hustling and urging his men on.

Let us compare the men in fielding. Collins is faster on his feet, covers more ground either to right or left, goes a bit further back of first to cut off hits, covers first faster, and comes in more rapidly to field slow hits. Doyle takes throws at second base nearly twice as often as Collins does, handles the ball better, breaks runners harder and carries a larger share of the infield team work. He does not move as swiftly toward first base, but he is a terror in getting balls over second base, and he plays batters with it, seems to me, a trifle better judge of the ball in play. The difference in mechanical fielding is a matter of shiftness and dashing speed. Do not imagine that by this comparison it is meant that Doyle is a slow dexter. He is not—excepting when compared with Collins. As a matter of fact, Doyle's only great weakness as a fielder consists of being uncertain in coming forward after second base. He has been his chief fault ever since he came into the major league as a prize beauty, and although he has improved somewhat in that respect, he still has the weakness, which has been somewhat accentuated by the style of pitching of the Giant twirling staff, which results in many balls being hit on top and made to bound slowly down the line.

He looks a much better fielder on viciously hit balls than when capturing the twisting teasers such as result from a spit ball being hit on top and a trifle late. This weakness will be shown in vivid contrast, since coming forward rapidly and scooping slow hits to the first baseman is one of Collins's strong points.

Both Good Baserunners. In baserunning the men are the stars of their respective clubs; and again Collins has the advantage, while Doyle is a great runner. Collins is a speed marvel, a quick, instinctive starter, who seems endowed with some premonition of when the pitcher is going to pitch, and when he is backing. He runs hard, slides viciously, throws his body either way, and hooks the bag well, although sometimes he falls in it because of the extra momentum due to his speed. Doyle is a slower runner, makes him a bit awkward in starting his slide. For several years I have been in constant fear of some bad injury to Collins, due to a false start in sliding, but he has escaped serious damage thus far.

In his own league, Doyle is the best starter in stealing that I know, but in a world's series he works under a handicap in this respect. In the National League the Giants have a habit of getting the better of it from the umpires in little things, and one of their next best "tricks" is to keep the umpire constantly watching the opposing pitcher for balks. There are other clubs who practice this nagging at the pitcher through the umpire, the object of which is to make the pitcher,

if not nervous, a little more careful through fear that a balk will be called on him. This gives them a little greater liberty about gaining the start. But, aside from that, Doyle starts instinctively. He is caught off first base with great frequency, but as he always is starting, a clever balk motion by the pitcher is more likely to trap him than it is to catch the ordinary base runner. He is away well, runs hard and slides desperately.

He hits the dirt with full force, throws his body away from the base, and the baseman, who tags him out, has to touch his feet as they come to the base. In sliding, it seems to me, he is a trifle more cunning than Collins, depending more upon deceiving the baseman as to which direction he intends to throw himself, and, should he elect to come straight in, as he sometimes does, the baseman must be shifty or be crippled, as Doyle comes full head of steam on a spikes-a-glittering.

In going two or more bases Collins is better, faster, and he finishes with a terrific burst of speed. He loses some of his advantage by making wider turns in rounding the bases, but not much. Both men are to be classed among the extreme chance takers. They run the bases, whichever there is a logical chance, and, in addition, Doyle takes a lot of what seem illogical chances.

Study of Doyle's Running. I made an odd study of Doyle's base running during the last two years, not for the purpose of this comparison, but for something else, that fits in here. I took thirty-four of his attempts to steal bases, or advance extra bases, in games played against the Chicago team and analyzed them. In five he had the advantage of the ball; in three others he was stealing unopposed because the catcher did not throw on account of a runner being on third base; in four others the catcher let the ball drop and had no chance to throw him out; in eighteen instances he attempted the steal at the "wrong time," according to the safety playing plan, and of these eighteen he stole seven bases. In just eight cases he stole when he logically should have tried to steal, and he was thrown out six times. It would seem that his success as a base runner is due more to unexpectedly trying to steal and "getting the jump" on the pitcher or catcher than to anything else.

To compare with this, I took seven games with Collins playing, in which he attempted nine steals. Eight of the nine he made at the time when the percentage tables show the risk of trying to steal is warranted, and he stole five of these eight bases. What does it prove? To me it indicates that Collins is a steady base runner when closely watched and expected to steal, and that Doyle cannot do it as well. As base running is to be the winning element in the coming series, this is important.

Comparison of the men as batters gives Collins a great advantage. He hits good pitching hard and weak pitching harder. Doyle, too, is likely to hit any kind of pitching. It seems strange to see him down in the .733 class, as he belongs up among the 300 boys at any time. Collins has had a good year. I wanted to know what kind of pitching he has been hitting. I took his games against ten of the leading pitchers of the American League, six right and four left handers—and his batting average in sixteen games against those ten was .270 and a fraction. I took twenty games in which he batted against fourteen second-raters, and he hit slightly under .350. In studying Doyle, I took eleven of his games against six of the top-notch National League pitchers—and in these games he batted .261. I took fourteen of his games against second-raters and weak ones, and his percentage for those games was .288—I have been told from inside the club that Doyle has been hitting in considerable hard during the season and losing a lot of hits that he should have had. Also, I am informed confidentially by two National League pitchers that the pitchers have been working him on a certain ball, and that he has been fussed up by it until he has not been hitting much of anything in these games.

I have been told just what they allege his weakness to be, but, of course, it would be unfair to mention it, even if it were true. I am a bit doubtful as to the accuracy of the information, as I saw him almost peel the hide off the ball when Cheney handed him one just where they said he couldn't tag it.

Neither man hits nearly so well against left-handed as against right-handed pitching, and a fast shot will stop both of them. The pitchers know this. I do not expect either Doyle or Collins to do much hitting on the days when the pitchers of the American League, either man is likely to hit a left-hander's fast ball hard.

Waiting, which properly is a by-product of batting, is where Doyle seems to have an advantage over his rival. He is a magnificent judge of pitched balls, and waits pitchers out to the limit when called upon to do so. He is a pitcher worrier, too, as he crowds the plate, jockeys back and forth in the box and waits for the ball to be pitched. If he can compel left-handers to pitch on the out corner he is likely to take a vicious crack at the ball, or worry them into passing him.

Neither man resorts to jockeying methods, and is inclined to be a bit high-strung while at bat, suffering from nervous tension and anxiety to hit the ball. He seldom hits bad balls, and when he does he hits them hard, although most of his hits are made off balls over the plate, as he has the true eye of a batter. His dainty manner at bat is almost as disconcerting as is Doyle's studied efforts to fret the pitcher.

In a world's series Doyle will be handicapped again by the severity of the umpires in regards monkey business in the batter's box, and will be deprived in part of his ability to let a pitched ball get by him, probably would not try it in a world's series, for it is not good for either the game or the team that a series of such importance should be won by such muckerish violation of sportsmanship laws.

Summing up the two men on all available data, I have reduced calculations to these figures: Doyle, .747; Collins, .763; showing the Athletics star only sixteen points in 80 ahead of his rival when all the elements that enter into the game are considered. This figuring is upon the worth of the two players to their teams in a series such as is to be played, not in an average season. The difference between two second basemen is so slight that a bad bouncer one way or a lucky hop of the ball to the other would offset it as just as good as the other, and as likely to win games, excepting for the fact that Collins's fielding speed is a bit more likely to cause luck to turn his way.

OPPONENTS MAKE MOST HOME RUNS

Giants Yield More Circuit Swats Than They Are Able to Make.

Baseball is full of curiosities, one of the oddities of the 1913 campaign being that on the Polo Grounds this year the opponents of the Giants have made more home runs than the team manufactured by the McGrawites. The players that invaded Gotham rid their systems of twenty-two loop-the-loop smashers, while the McGrawites representatives punched out nineteen round trip clouds. The homers made by the Giants' adversaries generally turned the tide of battle, while the four-baggers poled by the Giants had seldom much effect on the results of contests, generally being made after the verdict had been decided one way or the other.

It would be well for the Athletics pitchers, during the coming world's series, to keep a watchful eye on Arthur Shafer, as the Californian, a player Shafer was after before he was gathered into the McGraw fold, has been the Giants' most active manufacturer of home runs on their home lot this season. Shafer secured five homers, all off right-handers. Larry of his day, who won the Chalmers car offered to the National League's most valuable player last season, has made three homers at the Polo Grounds this season, one of these, procured on a home run, by the Braves, came with the bases full. "Chief" Meyers has made three homers in New York this season, and so has Charley Herzog, who, by the way, now has a better record as a pinch-hitter than Harry McCormick. Fred Snodgrass has made two, Fred Merkle one, Arthur Fletcher one and George Burns one.

Of the homers made by the Giants' opponents at the Polo Grounds this season, the Pirates had six, the Braves four, the Superbas and Cardinals three, and the Reds, Phillies and Cubs two. Tesreau, Fromme and Marquard each yielded five four-baggers. Mathewson was located for four and Crandall, Demaree and Witte were each found for one. Max Carey of the Pirates, was the only visiting player to make two homers in the same game (he did this at the expense of Fromme on August 19), and James Hyatt, of the same combination, was the only athlete to hit for the circuit when acting as a pinch hitter. Hyatt accomplished this feat on May 16, when facing Christy Mathewson.

The list of the homers made at the Polo Grounds by National League players this season follows:

Giants (19): Shafer—Off Rudolph, Boston; Moore, Philadelphia; Adams, Pittsburgh; Camnitz, Pittsburgh; Perrett, St. Louis; total, 5.

Doyle—Off Hess, Boston; Griner, St. Louis; Ragan, Brooklyn; total, 3.

Meyers—Off Hess, Boston; Pat, St. Louis; Alexander, Philadelphia; total, 3.

Herzog—Off Fromme, Cincinnati; Geyer, St. Louis; Richie, Chicago; total, 3.

Snodgrass—Off Brown, Cincinnati; Perrett, St. Louis; total, 2.

Merkle—Off Chalmers, Philadelphia; total, 1.

Fletcher—Off Ragan, Brooklyn; total, 1.

Burns—Off Adams, Pittsburgh; total, 1.

Boston (4): Rariden—Off Tesreau and Marquard; total, 2.

Brown—Off Marquard; total, 1.

Lord—Off Marquard; total, 1.

Brooklyn (3): Smith—Off Tesreau, 2; total, 2.

Wheat—Off Crandall; total, 1.

Chicago (2): Leach—Off Marquard; total, 1.

Evers—Off Mathewson; total, 1.

Cincinnati (2): Tinker—Off Fromme; total, 1.

Devore—Off Mathewson; total, 1.

Philadelphia (2): Luderus—Off Tesreau; total, 1.

Cravath—Off Fromme; total, 1.

Pittsburgh (6): Wagner—Off Mathewson and Witte; total, 2.

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Hyatt—Off Mathewson; total, 1.

St. Louis (2): Konechny—Off Marquard and Tesreau; total, 2.

Wirtz—Off Fromme; total, 1.

That the announcement of the Virginia state fair association of a purse of \$500 for a tilting match to be run during the fair, struck a popular chord, is evidenced by the number of entries that have already reached fair headquarters. Though the lists do not include all the entries, enough entries have been received to insure the running of the tournament. It will be a feature of the big show, and will be run on Saturday, the last day.

The tilting match will be run through the principal streets of Richmond. At its meeting Tuesday afternoon, the executive committee will select marshals, aides, time-keeper, orator and judges.

The condition for the tournament are as follows:

Entrance fee, \$5, payable at time entry is made.

Regulation rings will be used, one-inch rings to start with.

The ring will be half an inch in diameter.

Knights will be required to wear sashes in parade and while tilting.

Lances must be nine feet long, balanced four feet from the point.

Crooked points be allowed.

Knights must be in paddock by 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

Time required of horses will be seven seconds for sixty yards.

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The purse will be divided as follows: \$200 to the winner; \$150 to the second; \$100 to the third, and \$50 to the fourth.

Local Gridiron Notes

By "Prep."

J. L. Hill, Jr., manager of the John Marshall High School, received a telegram from D. G. Myers, manager of the Lynchburg team, offering a prize sum of \$1000 if they would come to that town to battle with the Lynchburg High School on or about Thanksgiving Day. Manager Hill has not as yet determined whether he will accept the offer.

The Lynchburg High School has a good fast team in the field this year, and are out for games with prep schools.

John Marshall High School has got a fast team. The men need practice, as they had only five days' practice before the game with Chester, in which they were defeated, although the locals had the better team. They fully expect to quit champions of the Prep School League.

Richmond College has in "Rock" King a very valuable man. He hits the line hard and tackles like a demon. Pollard, who

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Local Gridiron Notes

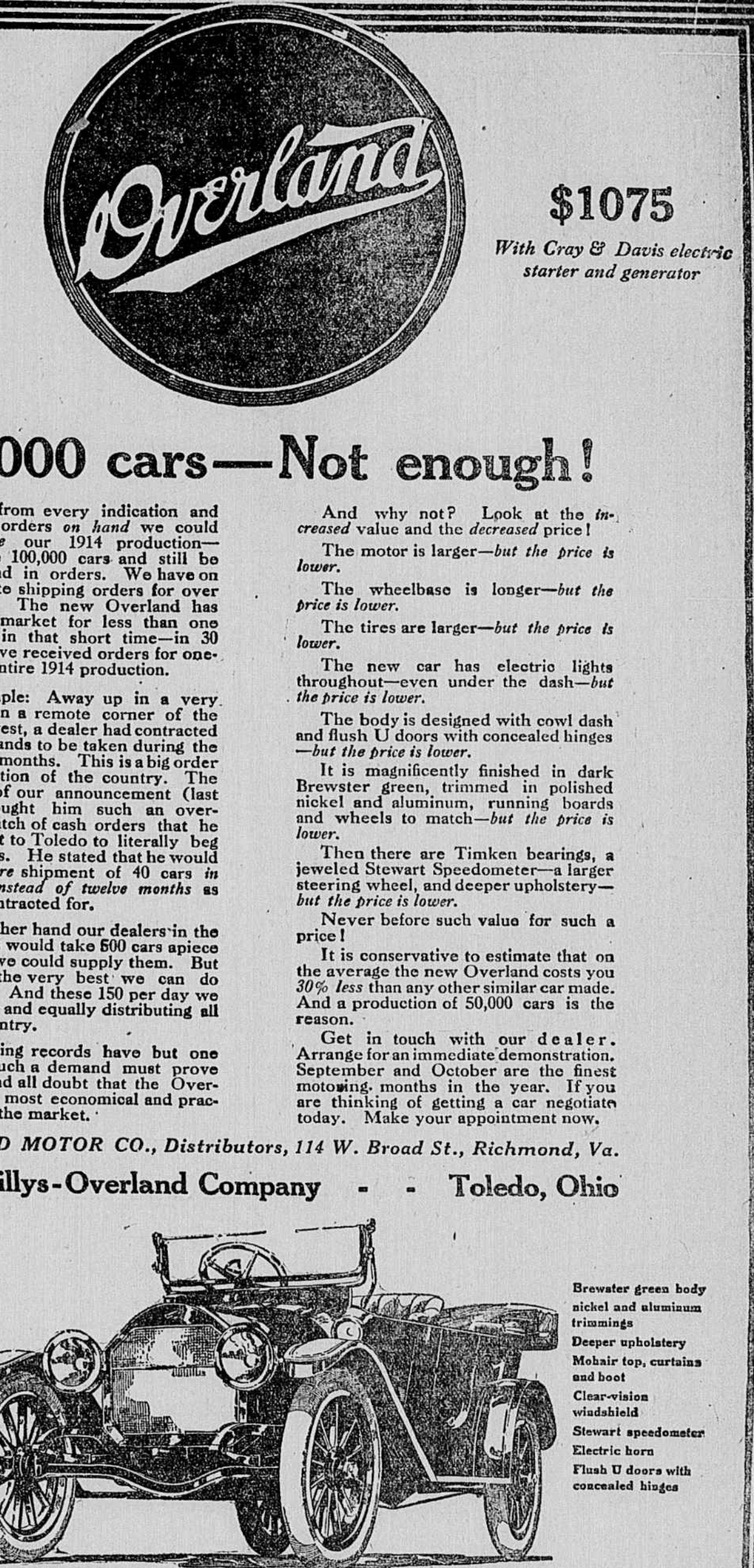
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played half of the game against the Blues, shows up to the standard, though he is a little light.

The Tigers have most of their old men back to play with them this year.

John Marshall High School is trying hard to arrange a game with Cluster Springs Academy.

If King and Walker had been in the lineup for the Blues against the Spiders there would have been a different tale told.

That little, low, chunky Owen, who is playing with High School, is going to make a good football player.

Word of the Blues, did some mighty pretty football playing yesterday against the Spiders.

The Spiders tried hard to sting the Blues, but stinging was out of the question.

Never was there a prettier football game than the one between the Richmond Blues and the Richmond College at Broad Street Park yesterday.

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